

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

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Christmas in Austria

Christmas in Austria is the time of year when family members get together for hours of quiet and thoughtful celebration. The Christmas tree plays a most important part. Every town sets up its own huge tree on the main square and frequently there will be an extra one, adorned with bread crumbs, for the birds. In families, it is usually the father of the house, who selects the tree and decorates it with gold and silver or sometimes colored balls, tinsel, sweets and candy wrapped in tin-foil, gilded nuts, etc. Electric Christmas lights are not too popular throughout Austria and in most homes candles are used. Candles are also placed in windows as a symbolic Christmas greeting to those absent from home and in commemoration of deceased family members.

On Christmas Eve shops close latest by 6 p.m. and there are no movie or theatre performances and no concerts. Bars, restaurants, night clubs are likewise closed and traffic is almost non-existent. Around 7 p.m.

on Christmas Eve (December 24th) the tree is lit for the first time and the whole family gathers to sing Christmas carols. "Silent Night, Holy Night", written on December 24th, 1818, by Josef Mohr in the Austrian village of Oberndorf, is still the favorite Christmas carol.

Presents are placed unwrapped under the tree and young children believe that they were brought to them — as a reward for good behavior — by Knecht Ruprecht or by the Christ Child (Christkind). Knecht Ruprecht closely resembles Santa Claus with his long white beard, red coat, heavy boots and his reindeer drawn sleigh. After all gifts have been inspected, the family sits down to

the traditional Christmas dinner, consisting of Fish Soup, Carp and Potato Salad as well as Sacher Cake for dessert. At midnight it is customary, especially in the country, to attend Christmas midnight mass.

Christmas Eve is followed by two more Christmas holidays, which are spent in a gayer mood visiting relatives and friends.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR

U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACCEPTS UNANIMOUSLY SOUTH TYROL RESOLUTION

The XVI U.N. General Assembly in New York accepted unanimously a resolution which recognizes that the dispute over South Tyrol has not been settled. It orders Italy and Austria to continue their bi-lateral negotiations. Should this not bring satisfactory results, an endeavor should be made by the two countries to find a solution of their differences by other peaceful means. The General Assembly enjoins both countries, to refrain from any action which might strain their relations.

The resolution was accepted after the recorder of the Special Political Committee, Mr. Fukushima of Japan, reported shortly on the revised resolution introduced by Cyprus, India and Indonesia. The Chairman of the General Assembly, Mr. Mongi Slim of Tunisia, then suggested that the General Assembly — as the Special Political Committee previously did — accept the resolution unanimously. The resolution was carried without a formal vote.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO SEND FACT FINDING COMMISSION TO VIENNA AND ROME

A sub-committee of the Council of Europe has decided to send a fact finding commission to Vienna and Rome end of December, with the task to investigate the South Tyrol problem which troubles the European community.

Chairman of the commission is the president of the Belgian Parliament, Struye. Other members are: Representatives Toncic of the Austrian People's Party and Strasser of the Austrian Socialist Party; from Italy Mr. Bettiol, and Dr. Ebner from South Tyrol.

AUSTRIA READY TO NEGOTIATE

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Bruno Kreisky reported at a press conference — with Secretary of State Dr. Steiner and other prominent members of the Foreign Ministry present — on the course and outcomings of the debate on the South Tyrol question before the XVI General Assembly of the United Nations. Dr. Kreisky emphasized Austria's readiness for an early resumption of the negotiations with Italy, based on the U.N. resolutions. Austria, Mr. Kreisky said, is also willing to consider the efforts of the so-called *Scelba Commission* (appointed by Italy for further study of the South Tyrol question) in establishing the topics to be negotiated.

Dr. Kreisky underlined the positive criterions of the U.N. resolution: The unexpected wide spread interest in the South Tyrol problem. Thirty-four nations participated in the discussions and none contested Austria's right to incorporate the question of South Tyrol into the agenda of the UN-General Assembly. A number of states which took a rather cautious position toward the Austrian point of view last year displayed now a growing understanding and made it clear from the very beginning that only a resolution acceptable to Austria would find their approval.

The resolution supports the Austrian point of view that there is a South Tyrol problem awaiting a just solution. Italy, has always persisted that the Paris Agreement has been fulfilled and that, therefore, no South Tyrol problem exists.

Dr. Kreisky looked upon the resolution as a positive step into the direction of renewed negotiations with Italy although, he warned, a return to the most sterile stages of the bilateral talks must be avoided. "I could imagine that recommendations of the *Scelba Commission* could provide an excellent fundament for bilateral talks," Dr. Kreisky declared and continued that Austria would soon invite Italy to proceed with bilateral negotiations.

Minister Kreisky mentioned also the mediating efforts of the European Council's South Tyrol Committee. He welcomed the initiative of the European Council but pointed out that its decisions can only be made by the Council of Ministers and this only unanimously. No resolution can be adopted in case of an Austrian and Italian veto. Even a decision of the Consulting Assembly of the European Council requires a majority of two thirds.

PROFESSOR VERDROSS RE-ELECTED TO UN COMMISSION

The General Assembly of the United Nations re-elected Professor Dr. Alfred Verdross-Drossberg of Austria to the UN commission for international law. Its twenty-five members are being elected on the basis of their professional accomplishments and not as national representatives.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA SIGN RESTITUTION TREATY

After prolonged negotiations a treaty between the Federal Republics of Germany and Austria concerning restitution payments was signed in Bonn, Germany, on November 27.

Germany agreed to pay 330 millions D-marks (4 DM equal app. \$1.00) as compensation for the admittance to Austria of so-called *Heimatvertriebene* (refugees) and for restitution payments to Austrian victims of Nazism.

Furthermore this amount includes compensation for losses caused by the transfer of the assets of the Austrian State Unemployment Insurance Fund to Germany in 1938.

Ratification of the treaty by the West German parliament is expected in December.

AMBASSADOR DR. MATSCH ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF U.N. COMMITTEE

On November 27, Austria's permanent Representative at the United Nations, Ambassador Dr. Franz Matsch, was elected chairman of the U.N. Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The 24-Nation Committee was formed at the unanimous recommendation of the General Assembly.

ROBERT M. BUNZL HONORED

Robert M. Bunzl, honorary consul of Austria in Atlanta, Ga., was recently awarded the Austrian Golden Medal of Merit for his most valuable services.

THE AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE
may be able to furnish more detailed information on
THE SOUTH TYROL QUESTION
or any other item printed in AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

FALL BOOM IN AUSTRIA

The Austrian Institute for Economic Research reported a very good Fall season. The building industry worked until mid-October with full speed. The number of people gainfully employed grew even in September and the pressure on the labor market hardly relaxed. Prices continued to rise. Wholesale and consumer prices went up 4% in mid-September compared with the same time a year ago.

The consumer-goods industry landed major Fall orders thanks to excellent retail business. The investments-goods industry showed still a considerable back log of orders and increased its production.

On the other hand, the raw material industries reported noticeable lessening of the upturn. It is expected that the Austrian balance of payments in 1961 will close with remarkable assets because of the relatively low import surplus and the record income from tourist traffic.

The Austrian export reached in September the value of app. 2,804 million schillings, (26 schillings equal 1 dollar), with imports climbing to 3,141 million schillings. Compared with the previous month imports increased by 78 million schillings and exports by 325 million schillings. The import surplus of 337 million schillings was proportionally lower than in the month of August.

The Federal Republic of Germany continued to be Austria's top ranking business account. She imported goods for 1,337 million schillings and exported for 753 million schillings. The imports from EEC (European Economic Community) countries totaled 1,848 million schillings while the exports into the EEC area run up to 1,339 million schillings. Austria's foreign trade with EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries increased from 14 to 15 per cent.

The preliminary results of the Austrian foreign trade for the first three quarters 1961 show imports of 28,678 million schillings and exports of 23,143 million schillings. Compared with the same period of the previous year an export increase by 1,716 million schillings was achieved while at the same time the imports grew by 1910 million schillings. Therefore, the foreign trade deficit of 5,535 million schillings had jumped by 203 million schillings against the year before.

The still prevailing Austrian foreign trade deficit was faced this year with an extraordinary rise of the tourist traffic which was at least 10 to 12 per cent above last year's. Record figures of 1960 for Carinthia's tourist centers jumped by 30 to 50 per cent. Receipts of foreign exchange from tourist traffic increased by approx. 40 million schillings to 680 million schillings as late as September.

CHARTERFLIGHTS TO VIENNA

The Austrian American Federation, Inc, 33 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N.Y., plans for its members two charter flights to Vienna for the coming year.

The first flight is scheduled for May 30 from New York to Vienna. Return flight from Vienna app. six weeks later.

The second flight is planned for app. July 25 to Aug. 25.

DIRECT FLIGHTS VIENNA-VANCOUVER

As of May 1962, the Air Canada civil aviation company will introduce direct flight services between Vienna and

Vancouver. Air Canada DC-8 jet clippers are at present only available on non-stop flights between Vienna and Toronto.

AUSTRIA'S PARTICIPATION IN FOREIGN TRADE FAIRS

Next year, the Austrian Federal Institute for Trade Development plans to organize 18 group exhibitions, six representative shows and 26 information booths, among them (during the first six months of 1962) one information booth each in Brussel (April 28 through May 9) and in New York (May 11 to 22).

The following group exhibitions are planned for the second half of 1962: Frankfurt, Germany, (Sept. 2 to 6), Izmir, Turkey, (Aug. 20 through Sept. 29), Salonica, Greece, (Sept. 2 to 23), Zagreb, Yugoslavia, (Sept. 8 to 23), Plovdiv, Bulgaria, (Sept. 16 to 30), Toronto, Canada, (Aug. 17 through Sept. 3), Chicago (July 25 through Aug. 9), Helsinki, Finland, (Sept. 21 to 30). Representative exhibitions will be shown in Berlin, Germany, (Sept. 22 through Oct. 7), at the Book exhibition Bozen, South Tyrol, (second half of September). Information booths will open in Brno, Czechoslovakia, (Sept. 9 to 23), Stockholm, Sweden, (Aug. 29 through Sept. 9), Tunis, Tunisia, (second half of Oct.), Verona, Italy, (Oct. 7 to 10), Bari, Italy, (Sept. 9 to 24), Strassbourg (Sept. 1 to 16) and Marseille, France, (Sept. 20 through Oct. 1), Windhoek, South-West Africa, (August), Nairobi, Kenya, (Sept. 26 to 29), Lagos, Nigeria, (Oct. 27 through Nov. 18).

SONATA RECITAL OF PAUL KLING AND WALTER ROBERT IN NEW YORK'S TOWN HALL

Two Austrian artists, the violinist Paul Kling, and the pianist Walter Robert, will give a sonata recital in New York's Town Hall on December 30 at 5:15 o'clock.

Mr. Kling has toured extensively throughout Europe and the Far East as soloist and recitalist. He is an Austrian citizen and at the present head of the violin department of the University of Louisville, Ky., and concertmaster of the Louisville Symphony.

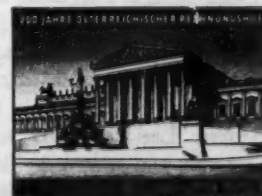
Mr. Robert was born in Trieste, received his musical training in Vienna, and has been head of the piano department of Indiana University for many years. He, too, has made many appearances as soloist and assistant artist in the United States and abroad. Mr. Robert, received the Boesendorfer award in 1932 at the Vienna Academy of Music. He will perform on one of the newly designed Boesendorfer pianos which caused a sensation at the Worlds Fair in Brussels in 1958. The instrument, the only one of its kind in the U.S., will be loaned for the occasion by the owner, a renowned Indologist.

The program will comprise Brahms' Sonata Op. 108, Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Sonata and Prokofieff's Sonata Op. 94.

STAMP NEWS:

On December 15, 1961, the Austrian Postal Administration issued a special postage stamp marking the bi-centenary of Austria's Court of Accounts.

The Van Dyck-brown stamp, designed by Prof. Hans Ranzoni Jr., shows the Austrian Parliament building in Vienna.



Gustav Karl Blenck

Austria recognizes the USA

A FORGOTTEN CHAPTER OF ROCOCO DIPLOMACY

Today hardly anyone remembers that Austria, after France, was the first country in Europe to recognize and to enter into diplomatic and trade relations with the young republic of the United States of America.

Following the historic war of independence, when the British colony of North America severed relations with the mother country on July 4th 1776, the embryo republic of the United States of America set out to seek international recognition as a sovereign state.

At a time when the Western world was struggling along the road from feudalism to "enlightened absolutism", this was to prove a difficult undertaking. America's leading statesmen, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had based their courageous step which was to unleash a bitter seven years war of independence on two political assumptions of doubtful validity: the historic rivalry between England and France, and the sympathies of French society, which were then under the influence of the great encyclopaedists, and paid homage to liberal and republican ideas and causes with fashionable fervency.

First attempts to make diplomatic contacts

Because of its enmity towards England — then preparing for a new naval war, and threatening the French colony of Canada — the French government of the young king Louis XVI came to the aid of the revolutionary and republican America in its first attempts to make diplomatic contacts in Europe. The American Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin, Deane, and Arthur and William Lee, the two sons of General Robert Lee, the most important military leader of the civil war, to make exploratory overtures to the governments of Europe, using Paris as their base of operations.

However, it soon became apparent that the traditional, philosophical enthusiasm à la Voltaire or Rousseau, and the hard realities of day-to-day politics were two quite different things. England, as a first class sea power, was greatly feared on the Continent of Europe, and the courage to enter into direct relations with England's former colony was conspicuously lacking.

Arthur Lee travelled to Madrid in an attempt to win sympathy for the Americans at the Spanish court. But while still en route, he was stopped and expelled from the country at the personal orders of king

Carlos III — despite the fact that Spain had lost Gibraltar to the English, and was powerless to prevent England from setting up a monopoly of trade with the Spanish colonies in the Americas. Carlos, as an absolute monarch, could not tolerate the republican ideas of the North Americans, and this weighed far more heavily with him than the prospect of economic advantages which impoverished Spain could have won for herself by recognition of the new republic.

Arthur Lee then travelled to Berlin, comforted by the hope that the liberal king Frederick II (already nicknamed "the Great"), who had angrily expressed publicly his disapproval at the iniquitous sale of German soldiers to the English, would be prepared to recognize the United States of America. Frederick, however, although he held the deepest admiration for Lee's father as a general, refused to receive Arthur. There is no mention of his visit to Berlin to be found in the archives, and it is therefore unfortunately impossible to find out just what his reasons were.

Arthur Lee's brother, William, arrived at Vienna on May 24th 1778, and was presented by de Breteuil, the French minister, to the Court and State Chancellor, Prince Wenzel Anton Kaunitz von Kaunitz-Rietberg, and was also introduced into Vienna society.

The situation which William Lee found in Vienna was a strange one, and — for an American diplomat — virtually impossible to understand. Since 1765, the old empress Maria Theresia had been sharing the conduct of affairs of State with her ambitious son Josef II. And as a result, there were serious and increasing differences of opinion. Maria Theresia herself favoured a policy of following her "political instinct". She saw in the American war of independence a rebellion against the old law of legitimacy and the holy right of kings. Her son Josef, on the other hand, who placed less value on such conceptions, feared that by supporting the American Republicans, England might be provoked into taking action against the Austrian merchant marine which he had taken such trouble to build up. Josef therefore decided to treat William Lee with courtesy during his stay in Vienna, but would not allow him to be received at court. The American plenipotentiary, William Lee, thus found himself in an embarrassing position, and soon decided to leave Vienna and return to Paris.

Josef II as peacemaker

After the death of the great empress Maria Theresia, the political wind changed in favour of the North Americans. In November 1780, in a letter to the empress Catherine II of Russia on the subject of the American War of Independence, Josef II wrote: "It seems to me that this whole war is like a game of chance, in which the ministers serve slavishly in order to keep their posts, and kings take part in order to stake their names, their reputations, their wealth, and the well-being of their subjects." Surely a remarkable point of view for an absolute monarch to hold!

Josef II took great pains to bring about an honorable peace between England, who had allowed herself to become embroiled in a hopeless war with the American colonists, and the United States of America, who had shown that they were tenacious and couldn't be beaten. The agreement of king George III of Great Britain to hold peace negotiations in Vienna is most probably due to the initiative of Josef II. Austria insisted, at the instigation of her great chancellor Prince Kaunitz — and indeed was the only European power to do so — that the fledgling United States of America should participate in the negotiations as a sovereign state, and so publicly acknowledged that Europe's leading power, Austria, now recognized the young republic of the USA morally and de facto.

The American Congress, delighted with Austria's correct attitude, instructed John Adams — later to become the second President of the United States, to travel to Vienna with full powers to negotiate. French jealousy, however, managed to contrive at the eleventh hour to switch the Peace Conference to Paris, where the Peace Treaty was brought to a successful conclusion on September 3rd 1783.

The emperor Josef II, as the initiator of the peace negotiations, was invited to Paris, where his sister Marie Antoinette ruled as the consort of Louis XVI. One may suppose that the emperor felt somewhat slighted, for instead of going to Paris himself he sent Mercy d'Argenteau as his ambassador to represent him. The choice was a happy one for American interests, for d'Argenteau was a staunch supporter of the United States, and firmly believed that it would be very advantageous to Austria in the future if she could "be of assistance in establishing such a respectable power in America, and which at some future date could set the Powers of Europe a great many problems".

Today, these words of Mercy d'Argenteau would appear to be prophetic, and they should cause the statesmen of the United

States to marvel at Austria's political perspicacity a hundred and seventy years ago!

First trade relations

Now peace was signed, but the European Powers still hesitated to take up diplomatic relations with the American "rebels and shopkeepers". The young USA, on the other hand, was desperately anxious to make good the loss of 170 million Dollars which the war of independence had cost by exporting to Europe. America was seeking commercial recognition rather than political friendship. And once again, it was Austria who took the initiative. As early as 1782, the "Bohemian Line Company", based on the port of Trieste, began to trade with North America. Four further Austrian overseas trading companies followed suit. The first cargo ship sailing under the Austrian flag — the "Le Capricieux" — docked at Philadelphia in October 1783. In the same year, the Chancellor Prince Kaunitz appointed the Imperial Commercial Counsellor Beelen-Bertholff as the Austrian finance and economic representative in the United States. He took up official residence at Philadelphia, where Congress held its meetings, and America regarded with pride the first unofficial Austrian ambassador. The emperor Josef II and Prince Kaunitz, however, went further than this. They declared their readiness to recognize the USA officially just as soon as the United States made a formal request to this effect. Benjamin Franklin was also approached in this matter and invited to come to Vienna.

One of the remarkable characteristics of the Baroque and Rococo diplomacy was to make use of the services of scholars and scientists in the conducting of important affairs of state. And in this particular instance, the Dutch naturalist Johann Ingenhous, the discoverer of plant breathing and a pioneer in the possibility of inoculation against smallpox, was chosen to try and persuade the American physicist and inventor of the lightning conductor in the warmest terms to visit Vienna, so that the emperor would be provided with a suitable pretext for according full official recognition of the sovereignty of North America.

A question of etiquette

For the whole matter now turned on a question of etiquette. Austria had to safeguard the dignity of her position as the leading power on the Continent, and was therefore unable to take the first initial step in the matter. The democratic republic of North America, however, had little understanding or patience for the prestige

problems of European rococo diplomacy. Thomas Jefferson was in no hurry to heed the Austrian gesture, for he didn't have a high opinion of Josef II, and was very much disturbed over his war against Holland. General de Lafayette, on the other hand, who had stayed in Vienna in the year 1785, was very much impressed with the personality of Josef II and reported his opinion in the warmest terms to George Washington.

The United States was not, however, so much interested in the recognition of her sovereignty, which in any case had long since been recognized de facto and was questioned by nobody, but rather in the conclusion of a treaty of friendship and trade with Austria. Josef met this wish by founding an Austro-American company with a capital of 500,000 Gulden, and — in 1786 — he ordered Prince Kaunitz to begin negotiations with regard to a trade agreement, adding the condition, however, that the agreement should only be valid for the hereditary lands of the Habsburg, and not for the "Holy Roman Empire of Germanic Nations", of which he was also the emperor. But because it was somehow feared that the Americans "whose trading tricks are so very ready to hand" were getting the better of the bargain, each paragraph of the draft agreement was debated and discussed at such length that they were finally shelved altogether when the Dollar fell drastically in value, and the American public debt rose enormously. In 1789, the Austrian trade and finance representative, Beelen-Bertholff, was withdrawn from Philadelphia.

This year saw the outbreak of the French Revolution. Twelve months later, the emperor Josef II died at the early age of only forty nine, robbing the world and Austria of one of its great hopes. Almost overnight, everything changed: England regained command of the seas, the Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars shattered Europe, and in the meantime the United States was able to pursue a policy of peaceful development and steadily overtook other states in many spheres.

Forty years later

Only forty years later, in August 1829, did the trade and seafaring agreement between Austria and the USA come into effect. And with its signing, North America began to increase in importance as a land of immigration for the people of Austria.

For us today, it is interesting to recall that such very different personages holding such widely divergent views and of such dissimilar upbringing as Maria Theresia, Josef II and Prince Kaunitz, on the one hand, and Franklin, Jefferson, Lee and

"Vienna on Parade"

The "Vienna on Parade" show, featuring among other attractions the world-famous *Deutschmeister-Band* under the baton of Capt. Julius Hermann, will again tour the United States this winter. The band's preliminary itinerary is listed below:

JAN.	Tuesday, 16,	Philadelphia, Pa.
1962:	Wednesday, 17,	White Plains, N.Y.
	Friday, 19,	New York City, N.Y.
	Saturday, 20,	Baltimore, Maryland
	Sunday, 21,	Washington, D.C.
	Monday, 22,	Richmond, Va.
	Tuesday, 23,	Norfolk, Va.
	Wednesday, 24,	Florence, S. C.
	Thursday, 25,	Johnson City, Tenn.
	Friday, 26,	Knoxville, Tenn.
	Sunday, 28,	Atlanta, Ga.
	Monday, 29,	Jacksonville, Fla.
	Tuesday, 30,	Miami, Fla.
	Wednesday, 31,	Miami, Fla.
FEB.	Thursday, 1,	Orlando, Fla.
1962:	Friday, 2,	Panama City, Fla.
	Tuesday, 6,	Stillwater, Oklahoma
	Wednesday, 7,	Ft. Worth, Texas
	Thursday, 8,	Natchitoches, La.
	Friday, 9,	Houston, Texas
	Sunday, 11,	Lubbock, Texas
	Monday, 12,	Albuquerque, N.M.
	Tuesday, 13,	El Paso, Texas
	Thursday, 15,	Window Rock, Ariz.
	Friday, 16,	Phoenix, Ariz.
	Saturday, 17,	Santa Monica, Calif.
	Sunday, 18,	San Gabriel, Calif.
	Monday, 19,	San Diego, Calif.
	Tuesday, 20,	Los Angeles, Calif.
	Wednesday, 21,	Bakersfield, Calif.
	Thursday, 22,	San Jose, Calif.
	Friday, 23,	Berkeley, Calif.
	Saturday, 24,	San Francisco, Calif.
	Monday, 26,	Portland, Oregon
	Tuesday, 27,	Seattle, Washington
	Wednesday, 28,	Vancouver, B.C.
MAR.	Friday, 2,	Calgary, Alberta
1962:	Saturday, 3,	Edmonton, Alberta
	Monday, 5,	Spokane, Wash.
	Wednesday, 7,	Idaho Falls, Idaho
	Thursday, 8,	Salt Lake City, Utah
	Saturday, 10,	Denver, Colorado
	Sunday, 11,	Colorado Springs, Colo.
	Monday, 12,	Liberal, Kansas
	Thursday, 15,	Omaha, Nebraska
	Friday, 16,	Kansas City, Mo.
	Sunday, 18,	Chicago, Illinois
	Tuesday, 20,	Louisville, Ky.
	Wednesday, 21,	Lexington, Ky.
	Thursday, 22,	Toledo, Ohio
	Friday, 23,	Detroit, Michigan
	Saturday, 24,	Pittsburgh, Pa.
	Sunday, 25,	Buffalo, N.Y.
	Tuesday, 27,	Kitchener, Ont.
	Wednesday, 28,	Toronto, Ont.
	Thursday, 29,	Ottawa, Ont.
	Friday, 30,	Montreal, Que.
APR.	Sunday, 1,	Cleveland, Ohio
	Thursday, 5,	Troy, New York
	Friday, 6,	Hartford, Conn.
	Saturday, 7,	Concord, N.H.
	Sunday, 8,	Lowell, Mass.

Lafayette, on the other, met, so to speak, on the mirrored surfaces of the parquet of rococo diplomacy; an historic meeting of two very different worlds: the one just beginning to tire, the other straining eagerly forward towards a great future.

ATTENTION READERS:

According to informed circles, the original document of the recognition of the U. S. by Austria was bought by an interested party at an auction in New York approximately twenty years ago. Nothing has been heard of it since.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION would appreciate to receive information which could lead to the re-discovery of this important historical document.

The S.O.S. Children's Villages

HERMANN GMEINER AND HIS WORK

Thirteen years ago, Hermann Gmeiner founded the first SOS Children's Village in Imst in the Austrian mountains. At that time, — a time of great need and poverty in our country, — no one suspected that it was to be the beginning of one of the largest voluntary social welfare organizations of our time, and a true revolution in the field of child welfare.



Hermann Gmeiner

Hermann Gmeiner comes from a large peasant family in the Austrian province of Vorarlberg. After the war, he studied medicine at the university of Innsbruck. In the pediatric wards, and in group work with young people, to which he devoted his free time, he came to know the misery and despair of abandoned, unwanted children. Such children, he saw, were almost of necessity doomed to failure and delinquency. An orphaned or otherwise dependent child, of whom public welfare takes charge, is lucky indeed if he finds one of the rare really good foster places. Very often, he is put into an orphanage or similar institution. As a result, he loses all natural ties of family and community. To the loss of parents is added a second misfortune: he becomes an outsider, someone "different" from other people: someone for whom society has no place. — How else could a helpless child react but by becoming a "problem child"? What makes such youngsters "difficult", — their obstinacy, their lack of cooperation, small lies, thefts, — are often but the symptoms of a sick soul. The way in which a normal child protests against being sent off to some institution, just because it is the easiest solution for those responsible for him. Hermann Gmeiner became convinced that you cannot help such children merely by subjecting them to a lot of "re-education", as long as they have lost all faith and trust in grown-ups, all hope of being understood and accepted for what they are.

For them, help can come only in a fundamental process of healing. Perhaps it is the very simplicity and self-evidence of Hermann Gmeiner's idea that is responsible for its tremendous growth and success. It can be expressed in one sentence:

The aim of the SOS Children's Village is to put orphaned and dependent children back into that setting, that atmosphere, which God and nature intended for them: the family.

To realize this aim, four conditions must be fulfilled:

1) In Place of teachers, educators, or social workers, who can always be replaced, and who do not really become "involved" with their charges, there must be one mother, who takes the child into her heart and care, once and for all. These mothers are usually unmarried women, sometimes

widows, who are free to devote themselves completely to their children. A child's innate need for a mother's love is at least as great as his need for food and clothing. For, as a child is as yet immature and incomplete physically, and unable to provide for his own needs, so also his mental and spiritual faculties cannot develop on their own. A child's entire emotional life is of a receptive nature. No amount of teaching and education can shape his personality and his future as much as a mother's ever-present concern and understanding.

How much more is this true when it is a question of giving uprooted and insecure children a chance of growing up as happy and healthy human beings.

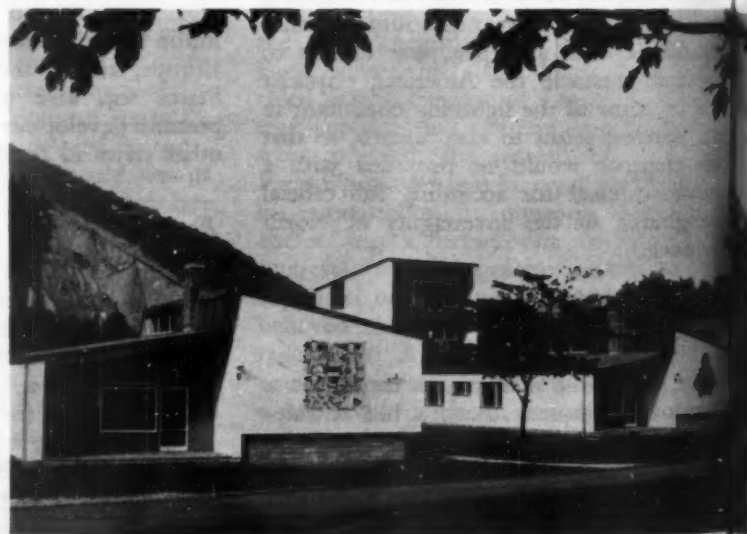
2) In place of classes or age groups there must be brothers and sisters. In each Children's Village family, there are eight or nine boys and girls, ranging in age from a few weeks to about fourteen years. They grow up together like real brothers and sisters (which, by the way, many of them are), — the older ones care for the babies, and both sides profit.

In orphanages and foundling homes, there is often only one grown-up to a fairly large group of children. We all know that this may lead to physical and psychological damage, known as hospitalism.

Now, at a Children's Village family, the baby has a mother, and besides, a lot of other "big people", — older boys and girls, — who are interested in him. What brothers and sisters in one family do for each other is one of the decisive factors of Children's Village upbringing.

Another thing: When, through accident or human failure, a group of several brothers and sisters lose their parents, we add a second misfortune if we tear them apart, thus robbing them of the mutual support and security they could give each other. Yet, — what foster home is there that would take in four, five, six or more brothers and sisters, what orphanage is equipped to care for babies and big children, all together?

At the SOS Children's Villages, more than 60% of the children are natural brothers and sisters; of course they remain together in one house. In one extreme case, all of the nine children in one house are real brothers and sisters.



Children's Village Altmuenster, Upper Austria

3) Every house is a unit of its own, with its own kitchen and living room, mother's room, and three children's bedrooms. No dormitories, no common kitchen and large-scale cooking. The girls have a chance to learn by example what a mother's and housewife's life is like, her joys and duties. Birthdays and feasts are celebrated within the family, as they are in any home. Christmas is a little different in each of the houses!

Every house mother receives a monthly household allowance, which she can budget as she sees fit. She can shop and cook what she chooses.

4) SOS Children's Villages do not have schools of their own. The children go to the local public schools, just like everybody else. They make friends with youngsters from normal families. Thus they naturally become a part of the community, and learn to think of themselves as regular members of human society.

They also go to the local church, and take part in parish life. Admittance to an SOS Children's Village is on the basis of neediness only; There are no racial or religious limitations.

After the end of compulsory schooling, which in Austria comes after the eighth grade, there are apprentices' and students' homes for boys and girls separately. There they live together, while continuing their studies or learning various trades and professions. The SOS Children's Village takes care of each child until he is able to live his own life.

But their Children's Village always remains home to the boys and girls, and they can and do return whenever they feel like it, for weekends and vacations.

This, then, is the aim of the SOS Children's Villages: to give the security of a real home and a mother's love to as many dependent children as possible. That is why we hope there will eventually be SOS Children's Villages in many countries, — to serve as a model and inspiration to local welfare organizations. There are at this time 25 SOS Villages all over Europe, either finished or nearing completion. Plans are in progress for a number of countries outside Europe.

Boys and girls from all SOS Villages now in existence meet each year for summer camp on the shores of Lake Caldonazzo in northern Italy. We hope that the personal friendship



and understanding fostered there will do their share towards peace and good will among all nations.

(By the way, 20 refugee children from Tibet are being admitted into Austrian children's villages these days.)

SOS Children's Villages have caused a true revolution of good will. They were begun on a financial basis that was practically equal to zero. Since then, more than 1½ million people all over the world have become friends and members of the organization, and support its work with their small monthly contributions. Through a special sponsorship plan, generous, warm-hearted people in every part of the world, — and especially in America, — have become "godparents" to individual children, with whom there is often a close personal contact.

He says: "All great things in this world come about through those who do more than they have to". To do good is to strengthen the hope of peace in our world. For hatred and envy can be overcome only by an even greater love and good will among men.

Herman Gmeiner, who late this Fall paid a visit to the United States, is hopeful to set up an S.O.S. Children's Village in the near future in this country.

The director of AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE in New York wishes to express at this occasion his heart-felt thanks to all those American friends who through many years have supported this important charitable enterprise by acting as foster parents, or by making money and material contributions.

The fact that all these demonstrations of interest in Hermann Gmeiner's work have been proffered without solicitation but spontaneously, speaks not only for the "S.O.S. Friends of Children's Village" but is at the same time a glowing testimony to the proverbial American good will to help those in need.

KURT HAMPE

"S.O.S. Children's Villages, Austria" is registered with the New York State Welfare Department in Albany, N.Y. Kindly direct all correspondence and inquiries to S.O.S. Children's Villages, Austria, c/o Austrian Information Service, New York, 21, N.Y.



Children's Village Imst

AUSTRIAN CHRISTMAS DINNER

Below you will find recipes for a typical Austrian Christmas Dinner.

VIENNESE FISH SOUP

Cook head and tail of carp with peppercorns, onion, thyme, bay leaf, salt and vinegar in approximately 1 gallon of water for about an hour until tender; cook roe separately in water, add salt and vinegar. Brown 2 ozs. of bacon fat and 1½ ozs. of flour, plus one lump of sugar, then add soup green and 1/16 liter (one liter being a little more than 1/4 of a gallon) red wine. Add this to drained fish soup, let boil for 20 minutes, then add boiled roe, season with salt, pepper and vinegar, add meat from head and tail of carp. 8 servings.

BLUE DANUBE CARP (Fried in Bread Crumbs)

4 lbs. carp 2/3 cup flour 2 eggs, slightly beaten
salt 1/2 cup fat 1 cup bread crumbs
Scrape and wash carp. Cut into slices 1" thick. Salt. Dip into flour, egg, and bread crumbs. Fry in deep fat until golden brown. Place on absorbent paper. If smaller pieces are desired, first split carp lengthwise and then cut into slices 1" thick. Fish is more tasty if sprinkled with lemon juice and salt and allowed to stand 30 minutes before frying. 8 servings.

LINZER POTATO SALAD

Slice 1 lb. of boiled potatoes, while still warm, in thin slices. Add vinegar, salt, sugar, white pepper and two tablespoons of oil. Mix well, decorate with chopped onions. 4 servings.

OLD VIENNA VANILLEKIPFERL

Mix 4 ozs. flour, 3 ozs. butter, 1½ ozs. ground hazel nuts and 1 oz. sugar. Gently fold, let stand for some time in cool place; roll out dough, form Kipferl (small horn), bake in medium hot oven, add vanilla sugar while still hot. 8 servings.

SACHER CAKE

3/4 cup butter	2 tablespoons apricot jam
6½ ozs. semi-sweet chocolate	icing
3/4 cup sugar	1 cup sugar
8 egg yolks	1/3 cup water
1 cup flour	7 ozs. semi-sweet chocolate
10 egg whites, stiffly beaten	

Beat butter until creamy. Melt chocolate. Add sugar and chocolate to butter; stir. Add egg yolks one at a time. Add flour. Fold in egg whites. Grease and butter 8-9" cake tin. Pour mixture in. Bake in 275° oven about 1 hour. Test with toothpick or straw. Remove to board; cool. Cut top off and turn bottom up. Heat apricot jam slightly and spread over top. Cover with chocolate icing, prepared as follows:

Cook sugar and water to thin thread.

Melt chocolate in top of double boiler.

Add sugar gradually to chocolate.

Stir constantly until icing coats the spoon.

Pour on top of cake.

If desired, split cake into 2 or 3 layers. Fill with apricot jam or whipped cream.

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